

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158656 TOSEC 050146

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO

1. IN VIEW OF FAHMY'S LATEST INQUIRIES TO EILTS (CAIRO 6611), I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT WE NEED TO SEND A QUICK UPDATING REPORT TO SADAT AND FAHMY ABOUT THE LATEST EXCHANGES WITH DINITZ, IN ADDITION TO QUERYING THEM ABOUT YOUR IDEA OF SENDING SAUNDERS TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS WHAT YOU MIGHT SAY TO GROMYKO. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, I WANT TO FLAG FOR YOU SOME CONSIDERATIONS THAT YOU WILL WANT TO WEIGH BEFORE PUTTING THE SAUNDERS IDEA TO CAIRO. ESPECIALLY GIVEN FAHMY'S COMMENT TO EILTS THAT WHAT IS SAID TO GROMYKO WILL DEPEND ON ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO US, FAHMY IS BOUND TO TRY TO DRAW SAUNDERS OUT ABOUT THE DETAILS OF OUR LATEST EXCHANGES WITH THE ISRAELIS. WE ARE CLEARLY NOT IN A POSITION TO GO INTO DETAIL AT THIS STAGE, AND RETICENCE OR EVASIVENESS IN DEALING WITH FAHMY'S PROBES COULD AROUSE SUSPICIONS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT SAUNDERS' TRIP WILL BECOME

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KNOWN TO THE PRESS AND THE ISRAELIS, WHICH COULD RAISE

UNDESIRABLE QUESTIONS AND SPECULATION THAT HIS TRIP IS RELATED TO THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME IF WE HAVE NOT HAD AN ISRAELI

RESPONSE BY THAT TIME, SINCE THE ISRAELIS WOULD THEN BE ESPECIALLY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE ARE UP TO. IF WE HAVE HAD A RESPONSE, YOU WILL WANT TO CONSIDER HAVING EILTS MEET YOU IN EUROPE TO BE BRIEFED SO THAT HE CAN REPORT TO SADAT.

2. ASSUMING YOU WANT TO SEND SAUNDERS AND AGREE WE NEED TO GIVE FAHMY AND SADAT A QUICK REPORT ON THE MEETINGS WITH DINITZ, FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED MESSAGE TO EILTS FOR YOUR APPROVAL. IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO OFFER TO SEND SAUNDERS TO CAIRO, I HAVE INCLUDED IN BRACKETS AN ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH TO DEAL WITH THE GROMYKO ANGLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS FROM THE SECRETARY

PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO FAHMY FOR SADAT AND HIM.

BEGIN MESSAGE:

WHEN I RECEIVED AMBASSADOR EILTS' REPORT OF HIS JULY 3 CONVERSATION WITH FAHMY, I WAS ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THIS MESSAGE TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTIONS FAHMY RAISED AND WHICH WE KNEW WOULD BE ON HIS MIND.

AS PRESIDENT SADAT AND FAHMY KNOW, PRESIDENT FORD SAW AMBASSADOR DINITZ--AND THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY LONGER MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND MR. SISCO--TO IMPRESS UPON THE ISRAELIS THE NEED FOR THEM TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION. THE PRESIDENT AND FAHMY WILL HAVE NOTED FROM THE ISRAELI MEDIA THAT THIS HAS HAD A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT IN ISRAEL AND THAT A VERY SUBSTANTIAL DEBATE HAS STARTED IN THE ISRAELI BODY POLITIC. DINITZ HAS BEEN CALLED BACK TO ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLICY DELIBERATIONS OF THE
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ISRAELI CABINET. HE WAS INSTRUCTED PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO SEEK CLARIFICATIONS FROM US AND ACCORDINGLY TRAVELLED TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS FOR A MEETING WITH ME. HE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD A LENGTHY FOLLOW-UP SESSION WITH MR. SISCO IN WASHINGTON TO GO'OVER THE GROUND AGAIN IN DETAIL AND HAS NOW DEPARTED FOR ISRAEL.

I WANT TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR TO THE PRESIDENT AND

FAHMY THAT WE HAVE NOT REVEALED TO THE ISRAELIS THE EXISTENCE OF THE LATEST MAP, AND WE HAVE NOT PUT FORWARD TO THEM ANY MAP OF OUR OWN. WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON

IMPRESSING UPON THE ISRAELIS THE NEED FOR THEM TO REACH A DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI PASSES AND OIL FIELDS WITH SATISFACTORY ACCESS TO THE LATTER FOR EGYPT.

THE CLARIFICATIONS THE ISRAELIS HAVE SOUGHT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO BE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE CONSIDER ESSENTIAL WITH RESPECT TO THE PASSES, ACCESS TO THE OIL FIELDS AND THE MANNING OF THE EARLY WARNING STATIONS. THEY ALSO WANTED TO REVIEW WHAT WE TOLD THEM OUR IMPRESSIONS WERE AFTER SALZBURG ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT AS WELL AS TO REVIEW THE QUESTION OF FUTURE STAGES OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, ASSUMING AN INTERIM AGREEMENT IS REACHED. WHILE DINITZ WILL BE BACK IN ISRAEL FOR THIS SUNDAY'S CABINET MEETING, I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE ISRAELIS WILL REACH ANY DECISIONS THIS WEEKEND SINCE THE DECISIONS THEY FACE CLEARLY RAISE DIVISIVE ISSUES IN ISRAEL. I WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT TO PRESIDENT SADAT AND FAHMY AS SOON AS WE HAVE AN ISRAELI RESPONSE.

MEANWHILE, WITH RESPECT TO WHAT I SAY TO GROMYKO IN GENEVA, I WANT THE PRESIDENT AND FAHMY TO KNOW THAT I AM CONSIDERING SENDING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS THIS FIRSTHAND WITH FAHMY, AND, IF HE WISHES, WITH THE PRESIDENT. I HAVE THOUGHT SAUNDERS WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE PERSON TO SEND BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE RELATIVELY LOW VISIBILITY. IF HE WENT, HE WOULD HAVE TO ARRIVE LATE TUESDAY, JULY 8, OR EARLY JULY 9 IN ORDER TO LEAVE IN TIME TO JOIN ME IN GENEVA ON

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THURSDAY. I WOULD APPRECIATE THE PRESIDENT'S AND FAHMY'S REACTION TO THIS IDEA.

(ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH)

(WITH RESPECT TO WHAT I SAY TO GROMYKO IN GENEVA, AS I INDICATED IN AN EARLIER MESSAGE I PLAN TO BE IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY ON THIS EARLY NEXT WEEK IN LIGHT OF WHAT WE MAY BY THEN HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE ISRAELIS. MEANWHILE, I WILL WELCOME ANY PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS FAHMY MAY HAVE.)

FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO FAHMY'S COMMENT ON THE COINCIDENCE OF RABIN'S VISIT TO BONN AND MY MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA, HE SHOULD KNOW THAT THE DATES FOR THE RABIN VISIT WERE AGREED SOME TIME AGO, LONG BEFORE

GROMYKO AND I AGREED WHEN WE WOULD MEET, AND THAT THERE
IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO. I HAVE NO PRESENT
PLANS TO SEE RABIN IN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY THIS
CANNOT BE RULED OUT IF IT WOULD SEEM USEFUL AT THE TIME.

I WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ONCE I HAVE
SOME IDEA ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. I WILL OF COURSE LET FAHMY
KNOW IF ANYTHING DEVELOPS ON THIS. END MESSAGE.

END TEXT OF MESSAGE TO EILTS. SISCO

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